DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 348 933 IR 015 572

TITLE	The Commonwealth of Learning: A Compendium of Activities.
INSTITUTION	Commonwealth of Learning, Vancouver (British Columbia).
PUB DATE	Aug 91
NOTE	49p.; For the 1990 annual report, see IR 015 573.
PUB TYPE	Reports - Descriptive (141)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Access to Education; Developed Nations; Developing Nations; *Distance Education; Foreign Countries; Higher Education; *International Programs; *Telecommunications
IDENTIFIERS	Africa; Asia; *British Commonwealth; Canada (West); Caribbean; *Commonwealth of Learning; South Pacific

ABSTRACT

The Commonwealth of Learning (COL), headquartered in Vancouver, British Columbia, encourages opportunities for learning throughout the British Commonwealth through distance education and the application of communication technologies to education, and provides activities for strengthening member countries' economic and social development. Functions and objectives of COL in distance education are: creation and development of programs in member countries; channelling resources to projects; consultancy services; staff training; facilitating inter-institutional communication links; evaluation and research; acquisition and delivery of teaching materials; adaptation and development of academic materials; local support to students; and recognition of academic credit. The five major sections of this compendium are: (1) regional--Africa, Asia, Caribbean, South Pacific and other; (2) Pan-Commonwealth issues and events--accreditation, environment, fellowships, scholarships and bursaries, student record management systems, and women in development; (3) functional areas--information services, materials acquisition and development, continuing professional education, technologies and telecommunications, and training for distance educators; (4) listing of conferences, meetings, and symposia since COL's inception in 1989; and (5) reports produced by and for COL. A glossary of abbreviations and acronyms is included. (ALF)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

☐ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

The Commonwealth *of* Learning

A COMPENDIUM OF ACTIVITIES

August 1991

IR015572

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

James A. Maraj

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

The Commonwealth *of* Learning

A COMPENDIUM OF ACTIVITIES

August 1991

THE COMMONWEALTH *of* LEARNING
#1700 - 777 Dunsmuir Street, Box #10428
Vancouver, British Columbia
CANADA V7Y 1K4

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

Introduction ..... *iv*

Extract From The Memorandum of Understanding on
The Commonwealth of Learning ..... *v*

Africa Region 1
- Botswana 1
- The Gambia 1
- Ghana 2
- Kenya 2
- Malawi 3
- Mauritius 3
- Namibia 4
- Nigeria 5
- Seychelles 5
- Sierra Leone 5
- Swaziland 6
- Tanzania 6
- Uganda 6
- Zambia 7
- Zimbabwe 7
- Regional 7

Asia Region 9
- Bangladesh 9
- Brunei Darussalam 9
- India 10
- Pakistan 11
- Sri Lanka 11
- Regional 12

Caribbean Region 13
- Antigua and Barbuda 13
- The Bahamas 13
- Barbados 13
- Dominica 14
- Guyana 14
- Jamaica 15
- Saint Lucia 15

Caribbean Region Continued
Trinidad and Tobago 15
Regional 15
General 16

South Pacific Region 17
Australia 17
New Zealand 17
Papua New Guinea 17
Solomon Islands 18
Tonga 19
Vanuatu 19
Western Samoa 19
Regional 20

Other 22
Canada 22
Malta 22
United Kingdom 22

Pan Commonwealth 23
Accreditation 23
Environment 23
Fellowships 24
Scholarships and Bursaries 25
Student Record Management System 25
Women in Development 26

Functional Areas 28
Information Services 28
Materials Acquisition and Development 28
Continuing Professional Education 30
Technologies and Telecommunications 31
Training for Distance Educators 33

Conferences, Meetings, Symposia 35

Reports Submitted to COL 38

Glossary of Abbreviations and Acronyms 41

INTRODUCTION

The main purpose of **The Commonwealth *of* Learning - A Compendium of Activities** is to provide information on the current activities of The Commonwealth of Learning (COL).

Its secondary purpose is to provide a ready reference for practitioners, with an interest in distance learning in Commonwealth countries, on the major areas on which COL's programmes are focussed.

This edition of The Compendium is comprised of five major sections.

The first section of The Compendium is divided on a regional basis. For each of the four major regions of the Commonwealth, the authors have outlined overall COL strategies and specific programmes and activities in each country. A fifth category encompasses Canada, Cyprus, Malta and the United Kingdom.

The second section refers to projects, issues and events of a Pan-Commonwealth nature. This area is divided into six subject areas: Accreditation, Environment, Fellowships, Scholarships and Bursaries, Student Record Management Systems, and Women in Development.

The third section of The Compendium reviews COL's functional activities. Specifically summarised are COL's activities in the areas of Information Services; Materials Acquisition and Development; Continuing Professional Education; Technologies and Telecommunications; and Training for Distance Educators.

The fourth section lists conferences, meetings and symposia convened by COL since its inception. In the final section are shown reports produced by and on behalf of COL.

Inevitably, some activities are listed more than once as it was considered useful to make each section as self standing as possible.

For ease of reference, The Compendium is complemented with a glossary of frequently used abbreviations and acronyms.

EXTRACT FROM THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE COMMONWEALTH OF LEARNING

Establishment of The Commonwealth of Learning

There will be established an institution to be called The Commonwealth of Learning, an Agency which will be an international organization with member countries of the Commonwealth, through their Governments, as participants.

Purpose and Functions

The purpose of the Agency is to create and widen access to opportunities for learning, by promoting cooperation between universities, colleges and other educational institutions throughout the Commonwealth, making use of the potential offered by distance education and by the application of communication technologies to education. The Agency's activities will aim to strengthen member countries' capacities to develop the human resources required for their economic and social development, and will give priority to those developmental needs to which Commonwealth cooperation can be applied. The Agency will work in a flexible manner and be capable of responding effectively to changing needs. It will serve the interests of Commonwealth agencies and educational institutions and doing so in a way that is consistent with the principles that have guided the Commonwealth. In performing its functions the Agency will seek to ensure the appropriateness of programmes and of distance education techniques and technologies to the particular requirements of member countries.

Within this broad framework, the functions and objectives of the Agency will include:

1. Assisting the creation and development of institutional capacity in distance education in member countries.
2. Facilitating the channelling of resources to projects and programmes in distance education.
3. Providing information and consultancy services on any aspect of distance education including the selection of appropriate technology.
4. Undertaking and supporting staff training in the techniques and management of distance education.
5. Facilitating inter-institutional communication links.
6. Undertaking and supporting evaluation and applied research in distance education.

7. Assisting the acquisition and delivery of teaching materials and more generally facilitating access to them.
8. Commissioning and promoting the adaptation and development of academic materials.
9. Establishing and maintaining procedures for the recognition of academic credit.
10. Assisting in the development of local support services to students.
11. Stimulating and supporting any other activities that fall within the Agency's areas of interest by such means as may be approved by the Board of Governors.

The Agency will operate through a headquarters in Vancouver, such units in other regions of the Commonwealth as may be set up, and networks of teaching, information and research institutions.

In carrying out its functions, the Agency will respect the integrity and interests of cooperating agencies and institutions, as well as their right to work together independently of the Agency.

* * *

The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding was followed by the first meeting of the Board of Governors which was held in November 1989 in Vancouver. Lord Briggs of Lewes was appointed Chairman of the Board of Governors and Dr. James A. Maraj, the founding President and Chief Executive Officer.

REGIONAL

Africa Region

COL's activities in Africa reflect the priorities identified through a number of consultancies and specialized services which were arranged at the request of Governments. These activities include the improvement of teacher education, the training of distance educators and the strengthening of institutions engaged in teaching at a distance. Attention is also being given to training in technical/vocational subjects, business, science and mathematics, and to professional continuing education in health.

In order to address the priorities identified, COL has helped with the upgrading and improvement of the technological infrastructure through the provision of desktop publishing equipment to assist in the production of materials and coordination of administrative support services.

Improvement of regional communications has also been promoted by means of links between institutions facilitated by the establishment of teleconferencing facilities and satellite communication.

Botswana

In response to a request from the Government of Botswana, COL is assisting in strengthening and upgrading the Department of Non-Formal Education (DNFE) in the Ministry of Education. COL has sponsored the visit for one month during July 1991 of a consultant, Dr. Colin Yerbury of Simon Fraser University, to work with DNFE staff on the evaluation of the distance education unit of the department. COL is also providing DNFE with desktop publishing equipment to facilitate the production of instructional material.

Under the COL fellowship scheme, Mr. T.L. Magetse, Course Development Officer in the Ministry of Education, undertook a study visit to distance education institutions in British Columbia over a three-week period in 1990.

The Gambia

During the West Africa Consultation visits, the Government of The Gambia requested COL's assistance with the development and support of distance education courses in the

upgrading of teachers through The Gambia College, and also with the provision of a low-power FM radio link.

COL has responded to the first request by sponsoring a study visit in November 1990 of three senior officials of the College to the National Teachers Institute (NTI) in Nigeria, and by commissioning a survey of the teaching force in The Gambia in order to identify the specific training needs.

Dr. Yahya Bojang, Vice-Principal of The Gambia College, participated in the 1990 COL Fellowship Programme, and under the extended COL Fellowship scheme, Mr. Robert Pollard of the British Columbia Institute of Technology visited The Gambia in March 1991 to study the existing teacher education system and make recommendations for its improvement.

Ghana

As a result of a consultative visit by COL staff to the Ghana Ministry of Education, COL has been asked to assist with the Government's MASSLIP project, with improvements in educational broadcasting, with a survey of teacher training and with the upgrading of teachers through distance education.

The forms of assistance currently under discussion with the Ministry of Education include: improvement of the educational broadcasting system; attachment of a COL Fellow to work with officials of the Ministry to carry out a survey of teacher training and to recommend how it may be expanded and improved through distance education; sponsorship of a visit by Ministry officials to NTI to study the facilities available there in distance education for the training of teachers; and provision of a desktop publishing unit to the Ghana Institute of Adult Education to help with record management and related matters in the proposed teacher upgrading programme.

Kenya

In order to strengthen student support services, COL is committed to helping with improvements in the distance education system of Kenya by setting up an audio teleconferencing network between the four national universities and extramural centres. COL will provide the necessary equipment and training of staff in the use of the teleconferencing system.

In 1991, the extended COL Fellowship Programme provided the opportunity for a B.C. educator, Dr. Allan Markin, to visit and to offer his expertise to the College of Education and External Studies at the University of Nairobi.

The University of Nairobi has accepted COL's invitation to participate in a bursary scheme sponsored jointly by COL and the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC) to assist distance education students. The University is also playing a leading role in a COL project concerned with the production of distance learning materials for an innovative post-graduate programme in management and leadership. The other cooperating institutions are: IGNOU, Massey University, and the University of Victoria in B.C.

The B.Ed. programme developed by the University of Nairobi is being made available at Makerere University (Uganda) with COL's support.

Malawi

Dr. Tom Prebble undertook a COL-sponsored consultancy on distance education at the University of Malawi in April/May 1990. His report concluded that a distance education system supported by print-based materials together with video and audio tape cassettes would be a cost-effective approach to the delivery of courses.

Mrs. Theresa Chilambe, Senior Education Officer, Malawi College of Distance Education, visited COL and distance education institutions in British Columbia in 1990 under the COL Fellowship scheme.

Mauritius

Mr. Preeaduth Chitamun, Mauritius Institute of Education, was awarded a COL Fellowship to British Columbia in 1989.

In the same year, COL commissioned Dr. John Daniel, then President of Laurentian University, to review education in Mauritius and the potential for using distance education there for human resource development. The report produced by Dr. Daniel recommended that distance education be used in many educational areas of Mauritius to increase the access to education and to widen the breadth of course offerings.

Professor James Maraj led a mission in April, 1991 to follow up the Daniel report and initiate a programme of distance education, as a result of which a nine-point Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed outlining a course of action for

Mauritius for the implementation of distance education throughout the country. A team from the Industrial and Vocational Training Board in Mauritius has since visited, under COL sponsorship, distance education institutions in Australia, New Zealand and Canada to identify instructional materials to be acquired for use in Mauritius.

Desktop publishing units are being supplied to selected educational institutions to assist in the production of distance learning materials. At the same time, some institutions have already benefited from the provision of materials developed outside in a variety of subjects such as accounting, drafting, basic tertiary level foundation courses, and distance education.

Professor J. Manrakhan, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Mauritius, visited COL and Laurentian University (Canada) in August 1991 to discuss a proposal to establish a link between the two universities. The link will involve in the first instance the secondment of a COL-sponsored Laurentian University staff member to the University of Mauritius to help establish a Centre of Extension Studies.

A telecommunications network for Mauritius is in the planning stages. This network will link up the central campus of the University of Mauritius to four centres in other parts of the Island, and to Rodrigues.

Namibia

The independence of Namibia has brought to the fore the requirement of basic education for its citizens. Two consultants reports commissioned by COL emphasised this need and further suggested that distance teaching through educational broadcasting could make a major contribution to the mass education that is required.

A Concept Paper on Distance Education in Namibia was prepared by COL and delivered to the Ministry in July, 1991. The Paper suggested a number of activities in which COL could assist the Government of Namibia, such as technical assistance in the provision of training, advisory services and physical resources in distance education for both the Ministry of Education and for the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation (NBC), as well as guidelines for the operating relationship between the Ministry and NBC. In addition, COL has arranged for the Director-General of the NBC to visit Canada and become acquainted with educational broadcasting there, and COL will receive a Fellow in September 1991 in furtherance of COL's programmes in Namibia.

Nigeria

On the basis of consultations with COL staff, Nigeria has agreed to provide access by its Commonwealth neighbours to the distance learning facilities of its more advanced institutions, such as the National Teachers Institute (NTI) which operates the most extensive programmes in West Africa for training teachers by distance. COL has entered into an agreement with the Volunteers in Technical Assistance (VITA) to make use of its PACSAT communications satellite to link institutions from The Gambia with NTI to enable them to benefit from the latter's expertise and resources. COL has also sponsored the visit of three officials from each of the Ministries of Education in The Gambia and Sierra Leone to study the operations at NTI.

The Universities of Lagos and Abuja have been provided with desktop publishing systems. Modems were also supplied to enable the equipment to be used as a means of communication. Additionally, COL is in the process of acquiring distance learning materials in the sciences, mathematics and business studies for the University of Abuja.

Dr. M.O. Akintayo, Department of Adult Education, University of Ibadan, participated in the 1990 COL Fellowship Programme.

Seychelles

COL is examining with the Ministry of Education a request for assistance with teacher upgrading. COL will host a Fellow in September 1991 in this connection.

Sierra Leone

Resulting from the West African Consultations and COL-sponsored visits by Sierra Leone officials to the NTI facilities in Nigeria, the Government of Sierra Leone has decided to use distance education methods to upgrade the qualifications of existing school teachers. A distance education centre has been established at the Freetown Teachers College and COL is examining with the College how to develop its programmes and how to acquire materials for the upgrading of teachers. In September 1991, COL will host a Fellow under the COL Fellowship programme to carry this work forward.

COL has also agreed to provide two microcomputers to assist the Ministry of Education in the processing of data on teachers.

Swaziland

Following the recommendations of a consultancy report on the University of Swaziland by Dr. Glen Farrell in August 1989, COL is discussing with the University the establishment of a distance education unit within the Department of Extra Mural Studies

Mr. Almon Mkhwanazi of the University of Swaziland was the recipient of a COL Fellowship in 1989 which enabled him to visit distance education institutions in British Columbia over a three-week period.

In 1991, the extended COL Fellowship scheme enabled Ms. Alice Wong of Vancouver Community College to visit the University of Swaziland and provide assistance with developing distance education courses in the area of small business.

Tanzania

Mr. Alan K. Cutting, Head, Educational Technology Centre, City Polytechnic, Hong Kong, served as COL consultant in November 1989 to the Planning Committee of the proposed Open University of Tanzania. In the same year, Mrs. Elizabeth Ligate of the South African Extension Unit (SAEU) participated in the COL Fellowship Programme.

Uganda

A report in February 1990 on the development of distance education in Uganda, prepared by Professor John Chick, recommended the strengthening of distance education programmes at the Centre for Continuing Education of Makerere University. COL is assisting the University to start a Bachelor of Education programme by facilitating the transfer of course materials from the University of Nairobi and by providing training for course editors, writers and tutors.

COL, using a special grant from the United Kingdom Overseas Development Agency, has facilitated the acquisition of the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants' (ACCA) materials by Makerere University.

Mr. Jassy B. Kwesiga, Centre for Continuing Education, Makerere University, was awarded a COL Fellowship to British Columbia in 1990.

Zambia

A COL-sponsored consultancy report prepared by Mr. Ormond Tate in 1990 recommended, among other things, the integration and coordination of existing distance education agencies and institutions in Zambia.

Dr. Alfred M. Kakanda, Head of Education Broadcasting Services, Ministry of General Education, Youth and Sports, was the beneficiary of an award in 1990 under the COL Fellowship scheme.

Zimbabwe

Dr. Meshack Matshazi, University of Zimbabwe, was awarded a COL Fellowship to British Columbia in 1989.

In 1991, under the extended COL Fellowship scheme, Mr. Norbert Hartig of Northwest Community College visited the University of Zimbabwe to advise on the establishment of a distance education centre. The visit helped to reinforce the links that had already been established between the University of Zimbabwe and Northwest Community College.

COL is participating in the "Generator Project", along with other agencies, in developing a science teachers' resource programme originating in Zimbabwe with the possibility of its extension to neighbouring states.

Regional

East, Central and Southern Africa

Under a joint COL/AIDAB (Australian International Development Aid Bureau) Programme, the Distance Learning Association of Southern Africa (DLA) is being strengthened. The Association exists to promote cooperation in distance education activities within the region. Some training workshops in distance education techniques have already been held under the auspices of the Programme.

Continuing Medical Education for Eastern Africa

COL has agreed in principle to provide assistance to the Eastern African Project on Primary Health Care. This will include assistance in the printing and distribution of teaching manuals and the newsletter. The project involves the Departments of

Paediatrics at Makerere, Nairobi, Dar-es-Salaam and Zambia with possible links to Memorial University in Newfoundland.

West Africa

A regional meeting was held in Banjul, The Gambia in August 1990, between senior officials of COL and those of The Gambia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone, to introduce and determine priority areas of need in accordance with COL's mandate. Improvement of teacher education was identified as the major priority for the region.

Asia Region

In Asia COL is directing its attention broadly towards helping existing distance education institutions on the one hand to consolidate and expand their activities, and on the other hand assisting, through various authorities, other institutions who wish to develop a distance education capability to meet identified needs.

Assistance to established institutions focussed on expanding the links between their main headquarters and the remote campuses, as well as in promoting better communication and greater collaboration among themselves. Staff upgrading and review of the existing systems to identify areas in need of strengthening were key elements of this assistance.

The development of new courses for women's programmes, literacy, and technical and vocational education and training were among the new initiatives identified as a priority.

Bangladesh

The Bangladesh Government, with financial assistance from the Asian Development Bank, has initiated action to set up an open university. A project development team has been appointed and COL has released its Vice-President, Professor G. Ram Reddy, as team leader. Discussions with the Bangladesh Government indicate that COL's assistance is required in the initial period with training programmes for staff and with the transfer of educational materials.

Mr. E. Chowdhury, a senior official from the Ministry of Education was on a one-month attachment to various education institutions involved in distance education in British Columbia under COL's Fellowship Programme.

Brunei Darussalam

At the request of the Government of Brunei Darussalam, Dr. Glen Farrell, President of British Columbia's Open Learning Agency, undertook a study of the distance education needs in Brunei and how they might be best addressed. Following his recommendations, COL is establishing a centre for professional and continuing education adjacent to the University of Brunei. The centre is expected to facilitate professional and continuing education in the range of technical, professional and vocational fields delivered via distance education methodologies from external institutions. In addition, the centre will conduct in-service training for key personnel in Brunei. A Programme Coordinator, who was on a COL fellowship, has been appointed by the Brunei Government and COL has provided a counterpart to assist in the establishment of the centre and in making it

operational. The centre features teleconferencing facilities and is equipped to provide computer training.

India

Following a consultative visit by the President and the Vice-President to India, programmes have been developed in which the following activities are featured.

COL has provid d the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and other open universities in India with facsimile machines in order to enhance communication between the individual universities and the study centres as well as between each university and IGNOU.

A diploma course in distance education prepared by IGNOU has been made available through COL for use in other Commonwealth countries and several institutions have been adapting it for use in training distance educators.

To enable the National Open School (NOS) and IGNOU to meet the demands for better quality of learning materials, COL is assisting both institutions by providing word processing/desktop publishing equipment.

In an effort to assist the Ministry of Personnel with the development of suitable training programmes, COL has been negotiating with Training and Development Canada for the use of training materials by the latter. Under the Fellowship Programme, a senior official of the Ministry of Personnel is soon to be attached to Training and Development Canada to enable him to access the materials and to study at first hand the methodologies to be used in training for public servants.

COL has facilitated the transfer to IGNOU of learning materials on forestry from the University of British Columbia (UBC) and it has also provided information from other Commonwealth countries on degree programmes in nursing.

In order to accelerate the training of the staff in the open universities and other institutions in the techniques of distance education, COL has assisted the establishment of a mobile training team. A specially tailored programme arranged by the University of New England, Armidale, Australia, has been arranged for the members of the mobile team. This initiative is seen as indispensable to the establishment of a specialized training institution earmarked for upgrading staff involved in distance teaching institutions.

COL has sponsored a study visit for a senior official from IGNOU to the Open Learning Institute of Hong Kong to examine the computerized systems being used for registering students and for monitoring their progress.

Professor O.S. Dewal has been appointed Coordinator of COL programmes in India and is being accommodated at IGNOU where office facilities have been kindly provided.

Pakistan

COL's Vice-President visited the Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) in January 1991 for consultations with University officials. The consultations resulted in the identification of a number of projects for collaboration between COL and the University, including women's education in technical and vocational education.

In cooperation with AIOU, COL is sponsoring a symposium, *Women's Literacy Programmes - The Role of Distance Education.* The Symposium is to be held from September 23-27, 1991 and is aimed at orienting senior level personnel engaged in literacy and post-literacy programmes to issues relating to methods and techniques of planning, implementing and evaluating programmes.

COL is strengthening the communications links between AIOU headquarters and its regional centres by providing the University with fourteen fax machines. AIOU is also being supplied with a desktop publishing unit to facilitate the production and revision of course materials.

A senior faculty member of AIOU, Professor Javaid Iqbal Syed, was awarded a COL Fellowship in September 1990 which enabled him to visit institutions in British Columbia involved in distance education.

AIOU has accepted COL's invitation to participate in the COL/CFTC bursary scheme for distance education students.

Sri Lanka

COL is providing assistance to the Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL) to enable it to revise and update its undergraduate programmes in science. At the same time, COL is helping OUSL to identify, with a view to acquiring, suitable course materials in nursing, horticultural engineering and journalism.

OUSL is participating in the COL/CFTC bursary scheme for distance education students.

Mrs. S.I.W. Kulatunga of the OUSL was one of the beneficiaries in 1989 of the COL Fellowship scheme.

Regional

A regional workshop on Course Development in Distance Education was presented for key personnel from institutions in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives. The workshop was held in New Delhi from December 3 to 14, 1990.

Under the extended COL Fellowship scheme, a B.C. educator, Mr. James Bizzocchi is visiting Pakistan in August, 1991 to advise on the use of audio-visual aids and other technologies in distance education. Mr. Bizzocchi will also visit Sri Lanka at the same time to undertake an audio-visual needs analysis for the Open University there.

COL is sponsoring the participation in the Asian Association of Open Universities (AAOU) Conference in September 1991 of two participants from India, two from Pakistan, one from Maldives, and one from Bangladesh.

Caribbean Region

The initial sectoral priorities in this region, based on consultations with governments and institutions, embrace the fields of agriculture, business (including accountancy), distance education, the environment, marine resources management, teacher training, technical/vocational education and training, and women in development.

In each of the projects underway and those planned for the Caribbean, COL is assisting in the creation and development of institutional capacity in distance education; undertaking and supporting staff training in the techniques and management of distance education; as well as facilitating inter-institutional communication links. Assistance is also being given to the acquisition of learning materials for reference purposes or for use directly or with adaptation. Information and consulting services as required, are also being provided.

Antigua and Barbuda

Consultations have been held with the Ministry of Economic Development, Tourism, Energy and Supply about the ways in which COL can help the Ministry to expand its public sector human resource development programme. It is anticipated that a pilot programme aimed at improving the management skills of key officials will soon begin.

The Bahamas

Consultations have taken place with the Government of the Bahamas about the establishment of a Distance Education Network to link New Providence with the family islands. Agreement has been reached in principle with the various institutions and agencies involved about the nature and scope of the project and COL is liaising with the Bahamas Broadcasting Corporation in the implementation of the first project.

Barbados

COL's strategic approach to education development in the Commonwealth calls for improving the familiarity of Commonwealth educators with developing applications of technology, so that they may make more informed decisions on how to apply available resources to their educational priorities. COL therefore provides field demonstrations from time to time of the developments in educational technology. The first such demonstration took place at the 1991 Meeting of the Commonwealth Ministers of Education in Barbados and included desktop publishing, interactive video disc technology, teleconferencing, database materials, computer assisted learning and computer

communications. It was opened to Barbados educators and attracted considerable interest.

The Chief Audio-Visual Aid Officer of the Ministry of Education and Culture participated in the 1990 COL Fellowship Programme and was attached to the B.C. Open Learning Agency and other institutions where he reviewed and assessed developments in the audio-visual field.

Dominica

Four senior educators from Dominica are on a study visit to Jamaica to review how the teacher upgrading project has been operating with a view to introducing a similar program in Dominica.

Mrs. Frances Harris, Principal, Dominica Teachers' College, will participate in the September 1991 COL Fellowship Programme.

Guyana

Two distance education personnel from Guyana, one from the University and one from the Ministry of Education, were attached to Canadian institutions for three-week study visits in July 1991 under COL sponsorship.

The Government of Guyana requested COL's assistance in developing a distance education programme for teacher training to be carried out by the University of Guyana and also help for the University in more effective delivery of its pre-university entrance course. This assistance took the form of providing the University with a desktop publishing centre, including the required training of staff, the development of learning materials and the provision of a teleconferencing network between Georgetown and the regional study centres at Anna Regina, New Amsterdam and Linden. The first link of the system, between Georgetown and Linden, is now in operation. COL is also examining the implementation of educational broadcasting in collaboration with the Guyana Broadcasting Corporation.

The Director of Extension Studies at the University of Guyana has been on an attachment to COL and other institutions in B.C. specifically to work out the operations of the above projects.

Jamaica

A pilot programme to train 800 Jamaican primary teachers by distance has been launched by the Ministry of Education. Technical advice and financial support have been provided by COL for the local development of course materials, and for the establishment of the necessary infrastructure and inter-institutional communication links.

COL is also providing teleconferencing units to link the Ministry with the regional centres and with the University of the West Indies Distance Teaching Experiment (UWIDITE) to expand the number of locations where UWIDITE courses are offered. UWIDITE's Project Officer was the first COL Fellow to visit B.C. under the Fellowship Programme.

COL is working with the Ministry and the Jamaican Broadcasting Corporation to develop an appropriate and effective role for educational broadcasting in Jamaica. In the first instance, an assessment of the facilities for educational broadcasting on the island has been commissioned.

Saint Lucia

Sir Arthur Lewis Community College (SALCC) in Saint Lucia is being helped to develop a distance teaching capability. Under a cooperative scheme involving COL, CFTC and North Island College (NIC) in Canada, a senior member of NIC's staff spent the 1990/91 academic year at SALCC assisting the College to establish a distance education unit at its headquarters in Castries and a study centre at Vieux Fort. COL also acquired a considerable quantity of learning material on SALCC's behalf to provide a headstart for the delivery of courses.

Trinidad and Tobago

Through the provision of seed money to permit the exchange of visits and facilitate project conceptualization and formulation, COL has been instrumental in enabling the Faculty of Agriculture at UWI and Wye College in the U.K. to develop a cooperative project for delivery of a master's programme in agricultural development by distance. The project has been submitted to the British Development Division in Barbados for funding.

Regional

Under the extended COL Fellowship scheme, The Director of Continuing Education at Simon Fraser University (SFU), Dr. Colin Yerbury, was attached to UWI for three weeks to advise on the management of distance education and the instructional design of course

materials. One outcome of the Fellowship was the attachment of the project director of UWIDITE to SFU for two months to work on the current distance education courses at UWI. In return SFU benefited from the UWIDITE project director's experience of establishing and maintaining a teleconferencing network. The SFU/UWI link was sponsored by both institutions.

An appraisal of distance education at UWI is in progress, and a preliminary assessment of the issues has been completed. Phase Two, the in-depth appraisal and analysis, is scheduled for October 1991.

COL is sponsoring a study of the use of radio as an education medium in the Caribbean. Phase One of the study covering Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago has been completed. Phase Two, extending the study to include Antigua/Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Montserval, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines is scheduled for completion during the latter half of 1991.

COL and UWI jointly convened a conference on distance education at the UWI Mona Campus in July of 1990. The report of the conference, *Experiences in Distance Education,* has been published, and circulated in the region.

OECS

COL, UWI and Lakehead University are cooperating in the development of a distance education course in education administration for school principals in the OECS countries.

General

Consultant missions have been undertaken to The Bahamas, Barbados, Guyana (2), Jamaica (2), the OECS countries, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Sample learning materials for review and reference purposes have been supplied to all the countries of the Eastern Caribbean, Guyana, Jamaica, and to the Universities of the West Indies and Guyana.

The following training workshops have been held:

(i) use of the computer in distance education (OECS countries);
(ii) adaptation of distance learning materials (regional);
(iii) course development and design (Guyana and Jamaica);
(iv) desktop publishing (Guyana).

South Pacific Region

Consultations have been undertaken by COL with the key institutions and officials in all the countries of the wider region, and initial projects have been established in several countries and sub-regional groups. In addition to adhering to COL's mandate, project activity has also been undertaken in cases where significant models can be expected to become established, and where there is a reasonable chance of establishing linkages with other parts of the Commonwealth, both intra-regionally and beyond.

Australia

In June 1991 a meeting was held in Sydney with the representatives of university-based Distance Education Centres (DECs) in Australia, all the external departments of the Technical and Further Education sector (TAFE), the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee and the Australia and South Pacific External Studies Association (ASPESA), the professional association for distance education. One of the main issues considered was the movement of materials within the Commonwealth and guidelines have been agreed for accessing materials more readily. COL will operate through the seventeen-point Australian network to make Australian expertise available in the Commonwealth, and an electronic mailing system is being instituted to provide effective communications.

New Zealand

In May 1991, an agreement was signed at COL Headquarters between the Principals of the Open Polytechnic of New Zealand and the Open College of British Columbia, following COL-sponsored links between the two institutions. Under the agreement the institutions will assist each other with course development, with a further view towards providing appropriate course materials and services to other Commonwealth countries.

In June 1991 a meeting was convened at Massey University between COL representatives and the heads of the major distance education institutions in New Zealand. Discussions centred around the ways in which a New Zealand network for distance education can play a full part in appropriate COL activities.

Papua New Guinea

In 1989, COL arranged for forty courses from the New Zealand Correspondence School to be made available to the University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG) and to the College of Distance Education (CODE).

UPNG's Extension Studies Department was identified as one of the communications centres in the COL South Pacific network during a consultancy visit in March 1991. Funding was provided through the COL/AIDAB Project for several items of essential equipment that were necessary to improve the professional orientation of the University's distance education programmes.

COL, in collaboration with AIDAB, funded the national training programme organised by the Association of Distance Educators Papua New Guinea in 1991. Two of the workshops concerned course development and the third, the management and planning of distance education.

Funds were provided by the COL/AIDAB Project to enable Papua New Guinea personnel to develop a national directory of Distance Education.

Mrs. Josephine Maioni, a Curriculum Officer in the College of Distance Education will visit British Columbia in September 1991 under COL's Fellowship Programme. A specially tailored programme has been prepared to enable her to study the distance education course development process.

The COL/AIDAB Project provided, in 1991, funding for the College of Distance Education to improve its communication and student support systems.

UPNG and CODE staff participated in COL Regional Workshops in Vanuatu (1990) and Australia (1991).

Solomon Islands

Mr. Glynn Galo, Director of USP's Extension Centre, participated in the 1989 COL Fellowship Programme. The Centre also participated in the University Centre Directors' Workshop, Sydney, 1991.

COL has assisted the Government of the Solomon Islands with the installation of a teleconferencing network between Honiara and provincial capitals in the outlying islands. The network will be used to provide students with access to the satellite network of USP, and to tutorial support which is currently limited to Honiara students. The new national teleconferencing network will also be used by the Solomon Islands College of Higher Education (SICHE) for the support of students enroled in the new distance education programme established by the College, and based on an Educational Services Centre at SICHE.

A second phase of a COL/AIDAB Project supporting the continuing education of primary school teachers was agreed to in December 1990, and work is underway in 1991 to prepare courses in English and mathematics.

SICHE was represented at the Hong Kong Conference on Technical and Vocational Education, and follow-on projects have been established with New Zealand (technical teacher training) and with Canada (ACCC support).

Tonga

A successful COL/AIDAB national workshop was held in 1990. In a second phase, the Community Development and Training Centre in Nuku'alofa has established a distance education centre.

Mr. Tom Roulstone of Northern Lights College, a 1991 COL Fellow, provided guidance and advice to personnel at the Ministry of Education regarding the development of a distance education programme.

Tonga participated in COL Regional Workshops in Vanuatu (1990) and Sydney (1991).

Vanuatu

The COL/AIDAB Project has funded a visit, in 1991, by the Director of the USP Centre in Vanuatu to Australia to identify suitable materials for teaching English as a second language, and to arrange for the acquisition of suitable course materials.

Vanuatu personnel participated in COL Regional Workshops in 1990 and 1991; and the 1990 Workshop was based at the University Centre complex in Port Vila.

Western Samoa

The Department of Education participated in the Hong Kong conference on Technical and Vocational Education.

Western Samoa personnel participated in COL Regional Workshops in 1990 and 1991.

Regional

A regional project, commissioned by COL and undertaken by USP staff concerning student response to courses provided by the University was completed and a report is available.

Dr. Bill Robertson of the South Australia College of Advanced Education completed a consultancy on the training of USP personnel in course development in 1990.

A COL consultant has completed a preliminary examination of the needs involved with upgrading the regional educational communications system.

Preliminary discussions have been undertaken with appropriate USP staff concerning a joint USP/COL research programme to study barriers to educational access experienced by women. This followed a UN regional meeting in the Cook Islands, which examined the status of women in Pacific states, and at which COL was represented.

COL sponsored a meeting involving senior USP staff and representatives of the Law Schools of the University of British Columbia and Monash University to examine alternative models of offering law training in the Pacific countries.

The 1990/1991 COL Fellowship Programme provided the opportunity for a B.C. educator, Mr. Keith Dunbar of the Centre for Curriculum and Professional Development to apply his expertise in instructional design to Extension Services at USP.

USP is participating in the 1991 COL Bursaries Scheme sponsored jointly by COL and CFTC through which support is provided to students studying at a distance.

The final stage of a year-long project involving an intense review of distance education offered by the regional university, USP, took place when the review team, comprised of Mr. William Renwick, Professor St. Clair King, Dr. Douglas Shale and COL liaison member Mr. Peter McMechan, met a wide variety of university groups on campus. As a result of these discussions a final version of the report has been produced.

The purposes of the Review were as follows:

1. review and evaluate the University's experience in providing distance education in the countries of its region, with particular emphasis on teaching effectiveness, perceptions about the effectiveness and value of the University's distance

education programme, the range of courses and the cost effectiveness of distance education;

2. indicate possible directions and organizational strategies for the future development of distance teaching offered by the USP, bearing in mind financial and human resource constraints, indications of likely increases in student demand, the appropriate levels of courses, and the possibilities of collaboration and completion with other potential providers; and

3. develop, through the process of the review and in association with staff, a review methodology which may be use by COL in its association with other institutions in the Commonwealth.

Other

Canada

Non-Governmental Organisations Meeting

A meeting was held in Ottawa on May 24 for Canadian non-governmental organisations (NGO's) active in international education and human resource development. The purposes of the meeting were to inform the representatives of the NGO's present of the objectives and operations of COL, and to inform COL personnel about the international activities in which the NGO's are involved. The meeting chaired by The Honourable Flora MacDonald identified several areas in which COL and individual NGO's could collaborate.

Canadian Distance Educators' Meeting

In cooperation with Laurentian University, COL invited some thirty Canadian educators to attend a two-day meeting at Sudbury on July 8-9. The purposes of the meeting were to explain COL's mandate, apprise the participants of its activities and describe the projects in which it is involved. The participants, in turn, were asked to outline their organisations and activities, and comment on possible areas for collaboration with COL.

Malta

A symposium at the University of Malta in June 1989 was convened by COL to explore how distance education could be used in meeting the training needs identified by island and coastal states in the field of marine resources management.

United Kingdom

In May 1991, a meeting was held in Oxford to consider the ways in which COL could assist in the continuing education of professionals in surveying, valuation, land economy, planning and engineering using distance education techniques.

Pan Commonwealth

Accreditation

"Establishing and maintaining procedures for the recognition of academic credit" is one of the eleven functions and objectives prescribed for COL in the Memorandum of Understanding. COL has begun to address the issue and is in receipt of a consultant's report which examined the main issues and implications of a scheme for Commonwealth Transfer Credit and Accreditation.

Environment

COL has been requested to give special attention to the environment. COL's action plan in this sector is directed towards promoting public awareness and understanding and influencing attitudes.

The objectives of the action plan are to help individuals and groups generally to acquire a better awareness of and sensitivity to the environment and its problems, and on what they can do to address them; to assist in fostering through the formal education system a healthy attitude to the environment among children and youth; and to aid the professional development of persons with special responsibility for managing and protecting the environment.

Having negotiated permission to use a questionnaire on public attitudes on the environment first utilized by a leading newspaper in British Columbia, COL is arranging for the administration of modified questionnaires in India, Jamaica and Malaysia. The Jamaica survey has been launched.

COL has co-produced with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) a video on the environment titled *Sustainable Development*. The video highlights how individuals and nations can assist in the process of environmental protection without sacrificing the development option, and draws on examples of innovative practices found in the Commonwealth.

Environmental Education

COL has received the report of its commissioned study *A Critique of the Unesco Environmental Pre-Service and In-Service Teacher Training Modules*. The study is the first phase in the production of a generic distance learning course on environmental education

for in-service primary teacher training. Unesco has indicated an interest in cooperating on the project.

Professional Development

COL and Unesco's Division of Engineering and Technology are cooperating in the development of multimedia postgraduate/learning materials in environmental engineering. A consultative meeting of experts was held in Port of Spain, Trinidad in June, 1991 at which COL was represented.

COL and the Foundation for International Training (FIT) are cooperating in the production of a manual *Decision Making and the Environment*. The manual is a revised and expanded version of a manual of the same title produced earlier by FIT and the Open Learning Agency and is accompanied by a video.

Marine Resources Management

As a follow-up to the Malta Symposium in 1989, COL and the International Centre for Ocean Development (ICOD) co-sponsored a meeting in Vancouver in September 1990 to identify practical projects for cooperative implementation between Canadian institutions and those from the Caribbean, South Pacific and Indian Ocean regions. The recommendations of the workshop are being followed up by COL and ICOD, individually and jointly.

COL has commissioned the Marine Affairs Programme at Dalhousie University (Canada) to produce a catalogue of audio visual materials relating to the subject of marine resources management.

Fellowships

In cooperation with the Government of British Columbia, COL sponsors a very successful Fellowship Programme. Under the Programme, ten key personnel from developing countries are attached to B.C. educational institutions involved in distance education and work with professional colleagues on methods and techniques they could use upon return to their home countries.

In the Programme's inaugural year, 1989, COL awarded fellowships to education professionals in Brunei, Guyana, India, Jamaica, Mauritius, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

Building upon the success of the previous year, the 1990 Fellowship Programme involved individuals from Bangladesh, Barbados, Botswana, The Gambia, India, Malawi, Nigeria, Pakistan, Uganda and Zambia.

For 1991, 12 countries have been invited to nominate fellows: Bahamas, Dominica, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malaysia, Namibia, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Seychelles, Sierra Leone and Vanuatu.

In addition, in cooperation with the B.C. Government, COL awards Fellowships to B.C. educators. The education professionals are sent to developing countries throughout the Commonwealth to provide advice and guidance in educational areas, with particular emphasis on distance education. In 1990, BC/COL Fellowships were awarded to individuals from the following eight provincial institutions: Capilano College, Camosun College, Northwest Community College; Okanagan College, British Columbia Institute of Technology, Northern Lights College, Vancouver Community College and Simon Fraser University.

Scholarships and Bursaries

Recognizing a need for support for students studying in alternative modes, COL, in cooperation with the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC), has recently launched a Bursaries Scheme for distance education students. Through the scheme, selected institutions offering courses by distance will be provided with modest funds to cover the fees of distance education students taking local courses.

Among the institutions receiving the first tranche of support are the Open University of Sri Lanka, The University of the South Pacific, The University of the West Indies, Andhra Pradesh Open University (India), University of Zimbabwe, Allama Iqbal Open University (Pakistan), University of Nairobi, Makerere University (Uganda), The Gambia College and University of Guyana.

Student Record Management System

COL has received a number of requests for assistance with the management of student records in an open learning/distance education environment. After some research, it was discovered that although there are a number of computerised packages for student record management, there was none that would specifically operate on a microcomputer and facilitate the management of students in an institution offering courses by distance. COL is currently developing a programme to meet that need.

Women in Development

In May 1990, COL convened a conference of women vice-chancellors in New Delhi. The delegates affirmed the important role distance education has in extending access to education to more women, recommended COL play a central role in disseminating information on women's studies, and suggested that COL pay special attention to educating illiterate women.

COL is launching *Training Rural Women for Literacy*, a project that will involve the production of a 30 minute, broadcast quality video, audio tape and booklet, which will present successful models of making women literate. The production will deal with rural women participating in literacy camps, which is now emerging as a distinct model for undertaking literacy work with women.

COL, in conjunction with the Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Pakistan, will hold a symposium, *Women's Literacy Programmes - The Role of Distance Education*, from September 23-27, 1991. The purpose is to orient senior level personnel engaged in literacy and post-literacy programmes to critical issues such as the methods and techniques of planning, implementation and evaluation of these programmes. Attention will be directed to the exchange of experiences, planning for the effective use of resources, teacher training, and student assessment and evaluation, with particular emphasis placed on the use of distance education.

COL is collaborating with the Foundation for International Training (FIT) on a project which will focus on the role of women in promoting sustainable development. This will be carried out by developing materials capable of being used as a training resource for extension workers in the field.

With COL support, the Law Faculty of the University of British Columbia (Canada) has supplied to the University of Nairobi, course outlines and materials on Women and Law, to enable the University to introduce a Women and Law component into their law courses in 1992.

COL has facilitated collaboration between the University of Abuja (Nigeria) and Mount Saint Vincent University (Canada) in order to obtain programme outlines and course materials for developing a programme in Women's Studies.

The development of a certificate/diploma course in Women and Development by distance is in its preliminary stages. This will entail the development of certificate, then diploma-level courses for NGO personnel, planners, policy-makers, and those working with

women's organizations. Institutions which are interested in participating include IGNOU, UWI, the UK Open University (UKOU) and the University of Lagos.

Women in Development

In May 1990, COL convened a conference of women vice-chancellors in New Delhi. The delegates affirmed the important role distance education has in extending access to education to more women, recommended COL play a central role in disseminating information on women's studies, and suggested that COL pay special attention to educating illiterate women.

COL is launching *Training Rural Women for Literacy*, a project that will involve the production of a 30 minute, broadcast quality video, audio tape and booklet, which will present successful models of making women literate. The production will deal with rural women participating in literacy camps, which is now emerging as a distinct model for undertaking literacy work with women.

COL, in conjunction with the Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), Pakistan, will hold a symposium, *Women's Literacy Programmes - The Role of Distance Education,* from September 23-27, 1991. The purpose is to orient senior level personnel engaged in literacy and post-literacy programmes to critical issues such as the methods and techniques of planning, implementation and evaluation of these programmes. Attention will be directed to the exchange of experiences, planning for the effective use of resources, teacher training, and student assessment and evaluation, with particular emphasis placed on the use of distance education.

COL is collaborating with the Foundation for International Training (FIT) on a project which will focus on the role of women in promoting sustainable development. This will be carried out by developing materials capable of being used as a training resource for extension workers in the field.

With COL support, the Law Faculty of the University of British Columbia (Canada) has supplied to the University of Nairobi, course outlines and materials on Women and Law, to enable the University to introduce a Women and Law component into their law courses in 1992.

COL has facilitated collaboration between the University of Abuja (Nigeria) and Mount Saint Vincent University (Canada) in order to obtain programme outlines and course materials for developing a programme in Women's Studies.

The development of a certificate/diploma course in Women and Development by distance is in its preliminary stages. This will entail the development of certificate, then diploma-level courses for NGO personnel, planners, policy-makers, and those working with

COL is sponsoring the cooperative development of an innovative distance learning programme at postgraduate level in leadership and management. The cooperating institutions are IGNOU, Massey University, The University of Nairobi, and the University of Victoria in British Columbia. The second phase of the project has been concluded with the determination of the subject content of the programme and the preparation of a project proposal for external funding.

In an effort to find the most efficient, cost effective, and favourable arrangement for acquiring learning materials on behalf of the less developed Commonwealth countries in particular, COL has commissioned a study on the feasibility of establishing a Materials Bank. The study will focus particularly on the Bank as a Licensor and Facilitator of Licenses for materials.

A Directory of Teacher Education Courses available by distance in the Commonwealth has been developed by COL. The purpose of the Directory is to provide essential information about these courses so that potential users can decide if they wish to obtain, through COL or by direct institutional contact, further details about specific courses. The Directory should be available by the end of August. It is intended that the directory will be updated annually.

Similar directories are planned for certain priority areas in the Technical/Vocational area including courses and programmes in Computers and Computing, Electrical/Electronics and Small Business Management.

COL is providing support for the production of a video on Instructional Skills for Vocational/Technical Instructors which is being produced by the British Columbia Institute of Technology. The video will be used as a component of the World Bank Teacher Training Project in the Bahamas and is expected to be completed by October 1991.

In order to facilitate the use of entire courses, or programmes meeting specific institutional needs, COL has concluded agreements to ensure the commencement of the following programmes:

(i) B. Ed. (Makerere University)
Initial intake of 200 students, October 1991, utilising materials produced at the University of Nairobi, Kenya.

(ii) B. Comm. (Makerere University)
Initial intake in October 1991, utilising in part the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants (ACCA)/Open College accountancy materials produced in the UK. The Overseas Development Agency (ODA) grant to COL for British goods and services (£50,000 annually) has been devoted in a large part to this project.

(iii) Foundation Science and Mathematics Programmes (University of Abuja)
Initial intake in late 1991, utilising materials produced by the Open Learning Agency, Canada.

(iv) Primary Teacher Education (The Gambia College)
Initial intake of 100 students, pilot project in distance education, in January 1992, utilising materials produced at the National Teachers' Institute, Nigeria.

Continuing Professional Education

Law and Law-related Continuing Professional Education

As a result of discussions with the Commonwealth Law Association and the Commonwealth Legal Education Association, COL has undertaken the development of a directory of resources in the Commonwealth covering various aspects of continuing education in law and law-related areas. The framework for the directory has been established, material collected from the major providing agencies, and publication of the 1992 Directory is scheduled for November. It is anticipated that the Directory will become an annual publication.

Two consultancies have been completed for COL by the Society for the Reform of Criminal Law to establish parameters for the development of a Commonwealth programme in judicial education based on distance education techniques.

Health Sciences

In November 1990 COL hosted a meeting of people with experience in delivering health science education by distance technologies in various parts of the Commonwealth. The reference groups assisted in formulating objectives for COL activity in this important area, and in defining a substantial list of possible project initiatives for further evaluation.

In 1991 COL funded a group from four East African medical schools to complete the production of a teaching manual in primary health care.

In July 1991 a consultant from Malaysia was commissioned to survey Commonwealth activity in nursing education, and particularly in post-basic training. An evaluation of the activities of the World Health Organisation in the development of nursing education in Commonwealth countries is an important part of the project, which is expected to be completed in early 1992.

Journalism

In 1991, COL provided funds to the Commonwealth Association for Education in Journalism to enable it to compile a register of training courses available in Commonwealth countries.

Resource Management

In May 1991 COL convened a meeting in Oxford, England of key representatives from Commonwealth associations concerned with continuing professional education and training in surveying, land economy, land valuation, planning, engineering and related occupations. This initial reference group provided a wealth of primary material for evaluation, towards the formulation of an action plan for COL activity in this field.

Technologies and Telecommunications

COL's strategic approach to education development in the Commonwealth calls for improving the familiarity of Commonwealth educators with developing applications of technology, so that they may make more informed decisions on how to apply available resources to their educational priorities. COL provides field demonstrations from time to time of the developments in educational technology. The first such demonstration took place at the 1990 Meeting of the Commonwealth Ministers of Education in Barbados and included desktop publishing, interactive video disc technology, teleconferencing, database materials, computer assisted learning and computer communications. A second demonstration will be mounted in Harare to coincide with the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in October 1991.

COL has provided IGNOU and other open universities in India with facsimile machines to facilitate communications between the universities and their study centres, and with COL.

The Ministry of Education in the Bahamas asked COL to advise on the use of technology to extend and improve educational opportunities for Bahamians living in the family islands. COL has made proposals to the Ministry regarding the use of teleconferencing to

deliver a trial teacher training distance education programme and these are under active consideration.

The Gambian Government has asked COL to assist in the development of educational broadcasting in the nation. COL is exploring various scenarios for educational broadcasting in that country including the establishment of a low-power station at the Brikina campus of Gambia College which would serve as a development station for producers of educational programmes.

To enable IGNOU and the National Open School (NOS) in India to meet the demands for learning materials COL has made provision for these institutions to acquire word processing/desktop publishing packages. The desktop publishing packages will enable IGNOU and NOS to accelerate the production and publication of learning materials and to establish themselves as centres of excellence in this area for the benefit of other distance learning centres in India.

The government of Namibia asked COL to assist with the establishment of educational broadcasting. COL has evaluated the needs and capabilities of the national broadcasting organisation in Namibia as they relate to the priorities of the Ministry of Education and Culture. A Concept Paper was delivered to the Ministry in the summer of 1991 containing guidelines for the operating relationship between the Ministry and the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation (NBC).

Implementation of the recommendations would involve COL in providing training resources to the national broadcasting organisation, the provision of radio equipment to the Education Broadcasting Unit, the sourcing and delivery of appropriate educational programming and the provision of a specialist in distance education as a consultant to the Namibian Government.

COL has assisted the Government of the Solomon Islands with the installation of a teleconferencing network between Honiara and several outlying islands. The network will be used to provide students living in the provinces with access to the satellite network of the University of the South Pacific, access to which is currently limited to Honiara students. The new national teleconferencing network being established will also be used to extend the programmes offered by the Solomon Islands College of Higher Education (SICHE) beyond Honiara for the first time, using distance education techniques.

COL has facilitated the National Teachers Institute (NTI) of Nigeria in its provision to The Gambia and Sierra Leone of teacher training programmes via distance education, using Nigerian expertise and learning materials. To facilitate communications between

among states, and for the development and administration of the project, COL is providing a packet satellite network to distribute electronic document and message transfer between the user locations. COL will also be linked to this network.

Training for Distance Educators

A Round Table on Training was convened in Vancouver in April 1990. Twelve training experts from institutions throughout the Commonwealth as well as senior staff representing the Commonwealth regions discussed training needs, priorities and strategies. A published report of the workshop and the recommendations developed from it is entitled *Perspectives on Distance Education*.

Two senior educators from the University of Guyana Distance Education Project undertook COL-sponsored visiting fellowships in July 1991. Ms. Anderson examined management and administration of distance education programmes at the University of Waterloo, Laurentian University and Contact North. Ms. Paton observed course production and design at the University of Waterloo and the Correspondence Division of the Alberta Ministry of Education.

Based on suggested syllabuses for training in key areas of distance education an action plan for training was developed and this has led to the presentation of a series of regional and national workshops.

The following is a cross-section of some of the regional training workshops that COL has sponsored:

Southern Africa - Swaziland
Course Writers and Editors Workshop, July 1990
Consultants: Mrs. Obonye Mphinyane and Mrs. Mapitso Sekoati

Pacific - Vanuatu
Course Development, September 1990
Consultant: Dr. Bill Robertson

Caribbean - Barbados
Course Adaptation, October 1990
Consultant: Ms. Janet Jenkins

South Asia - New Delhi, India
Course Development, December 1990
Consultants: Professor B.N. Koul, Professor O.S. Dewal and Ms. Janet Jenkins

Pacific - Sydney, Australia
Management and Administration of Distance Education, July 1991
Consultant: Mr. John Tayless

In addition, COL has provided consultants for a number of national training workshops:

Guyana
Course Development, December 1990
Consultants: Ms. Jennifer O'Rourke and Dr. George Knox

Hyderabad, India
Course Development, January, 1991
Consultant: Dr. John Chick

A Round Table on Student Support Services scheduled to be convened in Pakistan in April 1991 was moved to Vancouver, Canada due to the uncertainties caused by the Gulf War. The Round Table was attended by 12 delegates from distance education institutions throughout the Commonwealth. A report of this Round Table is in preparation and based on the recommendations found therein, an action plan will be developed.

COL and the Open Learning Agency of British Columbia have jointly produced a multimedia package entitled *Technology in Open Learning and Distance Education: A Guide for Decision-Makers*. This package consists of a 30-minute video tape and print material covering an introduction to open and distance learning, technology applications in distance education and selecting appropriate technologies.

COL is in the process of establishing a database of people with expertise in training and in other areas of distance education.

A directory of training courses and materials available for trainers has been produced. This directory has been distributed and it is planned to regularly revise and update it.

CONFERENCES, MEETINGS, SYMPOSIA

South Asia Conference

In March 1989, a conference of agricultural and distance education experts from Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka was convened by COL to develop a regional co-operative in-service training programme for agricultural workers.

Malta Symposium

COL convened a symposium at the University of Malta in June 1989 to explore how distance education could be used in meeting the training needs identified by island and coastal states in the field of marine resources management.

Round Table on Training

The first Round Table on Training for Distance Educators was convened by COL in April 1990.

Women Vice-Chancellors Meeting

COL assembled women vice-chancellors from across the Commonwealth in New Delhi in May 1990 to examine the use of distance education in universities.

Executive Heads Meeting

In July 1990, the Executive Heads of key Commonwealth distance education universities and colleges met in Vancouver, B.C.

COL's Role in the Commonwealth in the Future

In July 1990, COL convened a meeting in Vancouver on the Commonwealth in the Future and examined the distinctive contribution the Organisation could make to that future.

Marine Resource Management Training

In order to build on the initiative of the Malta Symposium, COL and the International Centre for Ocean Development (ICOD) sponsored a meeting in Vancouver in September 1990.

Hong Kong Conference

In November 1990, a conference in Hong Kong brought together participants from both developed and developing countries within the Commonwealth in an effort to improve access to existing courses and materials in the area of technical and vocational education.

Health Sciences Meeting

In November 1990, a meeting was convened at COL Headquarters to advise on the development of a Health Sciences Programme.

CASTME 91 Conference

COL was co-sponsor of the CASTME 91 Conference which was held in Vancouver April 15-19, 1991. The theme of the conference was "Quality in Science, Technology and Mathematics Education" and distance education featured prominently in the presentations and discussions.

A Round Table on Student Support Services

In April 1991, COL convened a Round Table on Student Support Services in Vancouver. It was attended by 12 delegates from institutions throughout the Commonwealth, and the report from it will be used as a basis for an action plan for COL in this area.

Resource Management Meeting

A meeting was convened in Oxford, England, in May, 1991 to consider how COL could assist in the continuing education of professionals concerned with surveying, valuation, land economy, planning and engineering.

Non-Governmental Organisations Meeting

In May 1991, a meeting was held in Ottawa for Canadian non-governmental organisations active in international education and human resource development.

New Zealand Meeting

In June, 1991 a meeting was held between COL staff and principals of the distance education institutions in New Zealand.

Australian Meeting

A meeting was convened in Sydney in June 1991 with representatives from the Distance Education Centres, from the external departments of the Technical and Further Education sector, from the Vice-Chancellors' Committee and from ASPESA.

Canadian Distance Educators' Meeting

In July 1991, COL, in cooperation with Laurentian University, invited some thirty Canadian educators to attend a two-day meeting held in Sudbury. The meeting explained COL's mandate, activities and projects. The participants, in turn, explained their organisations and activities, and suggested potential areas for collaboration with COL.

Commonwealth Environmental Management Seminar

COL, in cooperation with Simon Fraser University and the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council, organised a seminar on Human Ecology and Environmental Management at COL Headquarters in July, 1991.

REPORTS SUBMITTED TO COL

1989 *Distance Education for Human Resources Development in Mauritius: The Way Forward:* Dr. John Daniel, Former President, Laurentian University, Sudbury, Canada. July 1989.

Distance Education for the University of Swaziland: Dr. Glen Farrell, President, Open Learning Agency, Vancouver, Canada. August 1989.

Distance Education in Guyana: *Report of a Project Identification Consultancy*: Professor John Turner, Manchester University, United Kingdom. September 1989.

Report of Workshop on Distance Education, Windhoek, Namibia: 4 - 15 September, 1989: Professor Peter E. Kinyanjui, Senior Programme Officer, The Commonwealth of Learning, COL Headquarters, Canada. September 1989.

Distance Education and Educational Reform in Jamaica: The Clock is Ticking: Professor James W. Greig, University of Toronto, Canada. October 1989.

The Role of Media Technology within the Proposed Open University of Tanzania: Alan K. Cutting, Head, Educational Technology Centre, City Polytechnic of Hong Kong. December 1989.

1990 *Building for the Future: The Development of Distance Education Programmes at Makerere University, Uganda:* Professor John Chick, Director of Extramural Studies, University of New England, Australia. February 1990.

Distance Education at the University of Malawi: Dr. Tom Prebble, Associate Professor and Director of the Centre for Extramural Studies, Massey University, New Zealand. April-May 1990.

Conference of Women Vice-Chancellors of Commonwealth Universities (Report of a Conference sponsored by The Commonwealth of Learning, New Delhi, India, 14-17 May 1990), The Commonwealth of Learning, COL Headquarters, Canada. May 1990.

Distance Education and Marine Resources Development: Potential and Prospects: Report of a Symposium on Distance Education and Marine Resources Development Convened by the Commonwealth of Learning (University of Malta, 7-10 June 1990): The Commonwealth of Learning, COL Headquarters, Canada. 1990.

Experiences in Distance Education: Report of a Conference sponsored jointly by The Commonwealth of Learning and The University of the West Indies (Kingston, Jamaica, 14-16 July 1990): The Commonwealth of Learning, COL Headquarters, July 1990.

A Critique of the Unesco Environmental Pre-Service and In-Service Teacher Training Modules: Susan Staniforth, Naturesphere Environmental Education and Research, Canada. August 1990.

Distance Education in Brunei: Dr. Glen Farrell, President, Open Learning Agency, Vancouver, Canada. August 1990.

Needs Assessment for Marine Resources Management Training in the Caribbean, Indian Ocean and South Pacific Regions: Report of a Workshop convened jointly by The Commonwealth of Learning and the International Centre for Ocean Development (Vancouver, Canada, 17-19 September 1990): The Commonwealth of Learning, COL Headquarters, Canada. 1990.

The Use of Radio as an Educational Medium in the Commonwealth Caribbean-Part I: Rovin Deodat, Simon Fraser University, Canada. 1990.

Study Fellowships Programme 1990: Visiting Fellows and The Commonwealth of Learning, COL Headquarters, Canada. October 1990.

International Cooperation in Teacher Education Between Developing and Developed Nations: Dr. Geoffrey Potter, University of Victoria, Canada. October 1990.

Perspectives on Distance Education: Report of a Round Table on Training Distance Educators (COL Headquarters, Canada, 2-6 April 1990): The Commonwealth of Learning, COL Headquarters, Canada. October 1990.

Distance Education in Guyana: A Report of a Consultation Undertaken on Behalf of The Commonwealth of Learning: Jennifer O'Rourke, University of Waterloo, Canada. December 1990.

1991 *Directory of Distance Education Institutions-Part I:India:* Association of Indian Universities and COL, India/COL Headquarters. 1991.

Directory of Women's Studies in India: Association of Indian Universities and COL, India/COL Headquarters. 1991.

Distance Education in Zambia: Ormond Tate, Director, The Correspondence School, New Zealand. 1991.

Student Evaluation of USP Extension Studies Courses: Report of An Analysis of Course Evaluation Forms: Extension Services, The University of the South Pacific. January 1991.

Teacher Training by Distance in Jamaica: Sally Haag and Jennifer O'Rourke, University of Waterloo, Canada. February 1991.

Opportunities for Distance Education in the Commonwealth African Countries: INTELECON Research and Consultancy Ltd., Canada. March 1991.

Technical and Vocational Education and Training by Distance: Report of an International Conference convened by The Commonwealth of Learning (Hong Kong, November 19-23 1990) -- Part I: Proceedings: The Commonwealth of Learning, COL Headquarters, Canada. July 1991.

Directory of Courses and Materials for Training in Distance Education: Jennifer O'Rourke, University of Waterloo, Canada. July 1991.

Distance Education in Namibia: A Concept Document: The Commonwealth of Learning, COL Headquarters, Canada. July 1991.

Canadian Distance Educators' Meeting: Report of Meeting convened jointly by Laurentian University and The Commonwealth of Learning (Sudbury, Canada, 8-9 July 1991): The Commonwealth of Learning, COL Headquarters, Canada. August, 1991.

Directory of Courses Available by Distance: Volume I -- Teacher Education: The Commonwealth of Learning, COL Headquarters, Canada. August 1991.

GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACCC	Association of Community Colleges of Canada
AAOU	Asian Association of Open Universities
AIDAB	Australian International Development Aid Bureau
AIOU	Allama Iqbal Open University, Pakistan
CASTME	The Commonwealth Association of Science, Technology and Mathematics Educators
CFTC	The Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation
COL	The Commonwealth of Learning
ICDL	The International Centre for Distance Learning
IGNOU	Indira Gandhi National Open University
NOS	National Open School, India
ODA	Overseas Development Agency
NTI	National Teachers Institute, Nigeria
USP	University of the South Pacific
UWI	University of the West Indies
UWIDITE	University of the West Indies Distance Teaching Experiment
VITA	Volunteers in Technical Assistance